

## AUDIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR A COMPUTER NETWORK

Abstract Of The Disclosure

5 A two-way audio communication system is designed to  
allow basic audio communication between two users on a common  
computer network. The audio communication system of the  
present invention is designed to work in the background of  
the computer, so the user can work on other software  
applications simultaneously. In a half-duplex embodiment  
(i.e., only one user can talk at a time), if at least two  
10 users try to talk at the same time, an arbitration scheme is  
employed to settle the dispute. The winner of the  
arbitration can send a message, and the loser's message is  
discarded. The communication system reduces the time delay  
between when a message is sent on one end, and received at  
15 the other. In addition, the system provides for high quality  
audio reproduction of the message on the other end by  
minimizing the number of audible gaps or other artifacts  
transmitted along with the message.

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